

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: SOVIET LECTURERS' VIEWS ON WORLD SITUATION

A JANUARY 29 LECTURE HERE ON THE USSR INTERNATIONAL SITUATION (REPORTED IN DETAIL SEPAIRGRAM) CONTAINED A NUMBER OF COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST WHICH ARE REPORTED BELOW AS INDICATION CURRENT LINE BEING PROVIDED SOVIET PUBLIC.

--U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS IN A "DETERIORATING STAGE", RELEGATED TO SECOND HALF OF PROGRAM AND SOMEWHAT MORE POLEMICAL THAN OTHER SECTORS OF OVERVIEW.

--CARTER BUDGET CAME IN FOR HEAVY CRITICISM AS FURTHER INDICATION THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO INCREASE ARMS RACE WHILE PUTTING DOMESTIC "SOCIAL PROGRESS" ON ICE. LECTURERS PAINTED TOTALLY NEGATIVE PICTURE U.S. SCENE, CLAIMING THAT "NO SINGLE SOCIAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED" IN U.S. U.S. POLICY MAKERS WERE PICTURED AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"INTENSELY WORRIED" ABOUT STABILITY WORLD ECONOMY, CONTINUING DEPRECIATION DOLLAR, GROWING ENERGY CRISIS, AND INCREASING COMPETITION FROM MAJOR COMPETITORS WHICH CAUSING U.S. TAKE PROTECTIONIST STANCE ON IMPORTS.

--SOVIET EFFORTS MOVE AHEAD ON "WORLD'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM, DISARMAMENT," WERE CONTRASTED WITH U.S. ANTI-

SOVIET INITIATIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS BUILD-UPS. SALT NEGOTIATIONS WERE TREATED IN POSITIVE MANNER BUT AUDIENCE WAS WARNED THAT ROAD WAS STREWN WITH DIFFICULTIES AND THAT EVEN IF NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY, SALT AGREEMENT WOULD STILL FACE "TOUGH STRUGGLE" IN SENATE.

--VISIT OF CURRENT SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION LED BY PARTY SECRETARY BORIS PONAMOREV WAS PORTRAYED AS DIFFICULT MISSION DESIGNED TO MAKE SOVIET VIEWPOINTS CLEAR, SET U.S. THINKING STRAIGHT, AND REFOCUS U.S. ATTENTION ON REAL PRIORITIES RATHER THAN EVER MORE FEVERISH ANTI-SOVIET ACTIONS.

--PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO POLAND WAS HANDLED WITH DELICATE BALANCE. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO "SIX MILLION" POLES IN U.S. AND TO GROWING EXTENT U.S.-POLISH ECONOMIC CONTACTS, WHICH HOWEVER HAD CAUSED SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL INDEBTEDNESS PROBLEMS FOR POLES. POLAND, HOWEVER, REMAINS FIRMLY IN SOCIALIST CAMP AND SOVIET-POLISH FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WOULD CONTINUE.

--U.S. DELEGATION AT CSCE REVIEW TALKS IN BELGRADE AND ARTHUR GOLDBERG PERSONALLY, CAME IN FOR HEAVY BRICK-BATS. U.S. WAS DESCRIBED AS "PREOCCUPIED" WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND "DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DISTURB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKS" WHILE SOVIETS WORKED HARD FROM BEGINNING FOR CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT. FAIRLY LENGTHY EFFORT WAS MADE TO SHOW THAT VARIOUS SOVIET INITIATIVES AT CONFERENCE WERE SUPPORTED BY WIDE VARIETY OF COUNTRIES WITH SPECIFIC MENTION OF AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND, AND NORWAY. PROBLEMS IN DRAFTING "CONCLUDING DOCUMENT" EMPHASIZED BUT AUDIENCE WAS TOLD THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE GET FINAL DOCUMENT BY "MID-FEBRUARY."

--NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ADVISER BRZEZINSKI'S STATEMENT THAT CAMBODIA-VIETNAM CONFLICT WAS FIRST "PROXY CONFLICT" BETWEEN CHINA AND SOVIET UNION IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WAS DISMISSED AS "BEWILDERING" AND U.S. TROUBLE-MAKING.

--IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON TIMING OF GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRG, AUDIENCE WAS TOLD THAT BREZHNEV'S VISIT HAS BEEN PUT OFF TO AN "UNDETERMINED TIME" AND NO ONE CAN SAY AT THIS MOMENT WHEN VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE, BUT "BREZHNEV WILL GO."
BUCHANAN

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